

Graphs for Determining the Power of Student's t -Test

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(January 9, 1962)

This paper presents charts for determining the operating characteristics of Student's t -test. For a fixed level of significance α , the charts give constant contours of the power β depicting the number of observations plotted against a function of the difference in means. Both the one-sample and the two-sample (equal sample sizes) cases are treated for all combinations of

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= 0.01, 0.02, 0.05, 0.10, 0.20 \text{ and} \\ \beta &= 0.10, 0.50, 0.90, 0.95, 0.99 \text{ except} \\ (\alpha, \beta) &= (0.10, 0.10), (0.10, 0.20). \end{aligned}$$

The graphs were constructed for two-sided tests but within the given accuracy are equally applicable to one-sided tests.

1. Introduction

It is the purpose of this paper to provide charts for readily ascertaining the operating characteristics or power curve of Student's t -test. When a statistical test procedure is being selected, oftentimes the power of the test is not examined because of the difficulties in computing the power curve, or at best the power is computed at a single point. The charts given in this paper will provide four or five (depending on the level of significance) points on the power curve, and these points together with the level of significance should be sufficient for a graphical approximation of the power function.

Other tabulations of the noncentral t -distribution have been made by Neyman [3],¹ Neyman and Tokarska [4], Resnikoff [5], Resnikoff and Lieberman [6], Johnson and Welch [2], and Davies (Tables E and E.1) [1].

The tables given in Davies [1] are by far the most convenient for evaluating the power of Student's t -test in routine applications; the charts presented here are essentially a graphical extension of these tables. All charts are the result of calculations done at the National Bureau of Standards in connection with a table of the noncentral F distribution [7].

2. One-Sample Case

Assume X_1, \dots, X_n is a random sample of n observations from a normal distribution with mean μ and variance σ^2 and that we are interested in testing the null hypothesis H_0 that $\mu = \mu_0$ against the alternate hypothesis H_1 that $\mu \neq \mu_0$. If H_0 is true, then the statistic²

$$t = \frac{\sqrt{n}(\bar{X} - \mu_0)}{s_x} \quad (1)$$

¹ Figures in brackets indicate the literature references at the end of this paper.

² $\bar{X} = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i/n$, $s_x = \sqrt{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2 / (n-1)}$.

is known to follow Student's t -distribution with $(n-1)$ degrees of freedom; however, if H_1 is true, t follows a *noncentral* t distribution with $(n-1)$ degrees of freedom.

The usual test procedure is to choose the level of significance α from which a value t_α can be determined such that

$$Pr\{|t| > t_\alpha | H_0 \text{ true}\} = \alpha. \quad (2)$$

Then the proper decision rule at the α level of significance is to

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{accept } H_0 \text{ if } |t| \leq t_\alpha \\ &\text{accept } H_1 \text{ if } |t| > t_\alpha. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

When the alternate hypothesis H_1 is true, i.e., when $\mu \neq \mu_0$, then the probability of accepting H_1 is termed the *power of the test* and is given by

$$\beta = Pr\{|t| > t_\alpha | H_1 \text{ true}\} = Pr\{\text{accept } H_1 | H_1 \text{ true}\}. \quad (4)$$

3. Two-Sample Case

Suppose we are given two random samples from normal populations, say, X_1, \dots, X_n and Y_1, \dots, Y_n with means μ_1 and μ_2 respectively and unknown variances σ^2 . Then the problem of testing the null hypothesis H_0 that $\mu_1 = \mu_2$ against the alternate hypothesis H_1 that $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$ is resolved by considering the t -statistic³

$$t = \frac{\sqrt{n}(\bar{X} - \bar{Y})}{\sqrt{s_x^2 + s_y^2}} \quad (5)$$

with $2(n-1)$ degrees of freedom and applying the test procedure indicated by (3).

³ $\bar{Y} = \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i/n$, $s_y = \sqrt{\sum (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2 / (n-1)}$.

4. Use of Charts

The power of Student's t -test depends upon three parameters: Δ , the difference between means where $\Delta = |\mu - \mu_0|$ for the one-sample case, and $\Delta = |\mu_1 - \mu_2|$ for the two-sample case; the number of observations;

and the level of significance. The charts given in this paper depict a standardized difference $\delta = \Delta/\sigma$ plotted against n for fixed α and β . Figures 1-5 deal with the one-sample case; whereas figures 6-10 deal with the two-sample case. It should be noted that on all graphs dealing with the two-sample case, n is the number of observations in *each* sample.

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} .01 & \text{FOR TWO-SIDED TEST} \\ .005 & \text{FOR ONE-SIDED TEST} \end{cases}$$

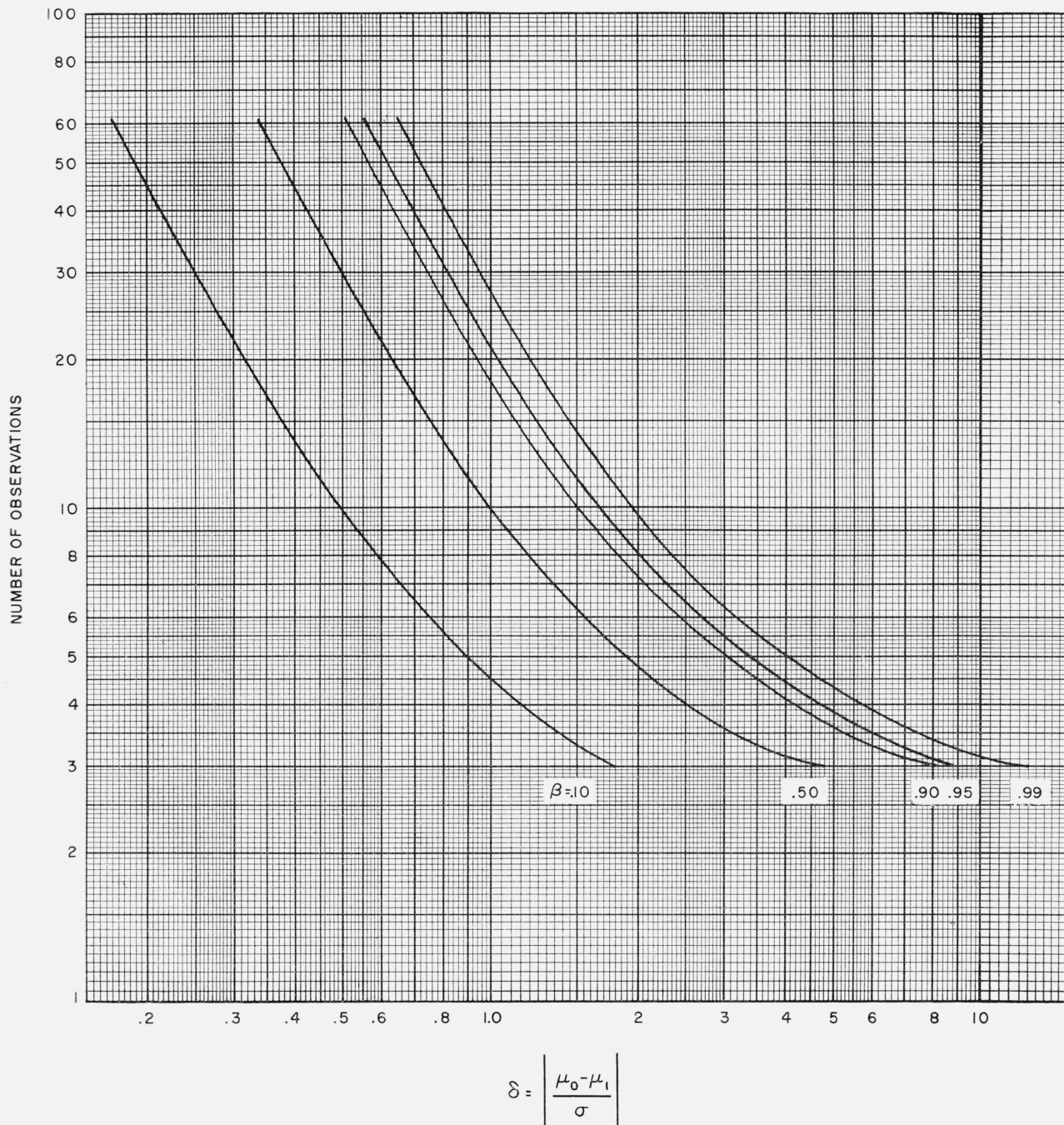


FIGURE 1. Curves of constant power (β) for t -test of mean.

All charts were constructed for a two-sided or symmetrical t -test at level of significance α . However, within the accuracy of these charts, the one-sided test will be equivalent to the two-sided test, and hence these same graphs can be used for an asymmetrical t -test where the appropriate level of significance will now be $\alpha/2$ instead of α .

5. Applications

Example 1. Suppose that we plan to take $n=10$ observations and carry out a two-sided t -test for the population mean at level of significance $\alpha=0.05$ and that we are interested in the power curve of such a test.

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} .02 & \text{FOR TWO-SIDED TEST} \\ .01 & \text{FOR ONE-SIDED TEST} \end{cases}$$

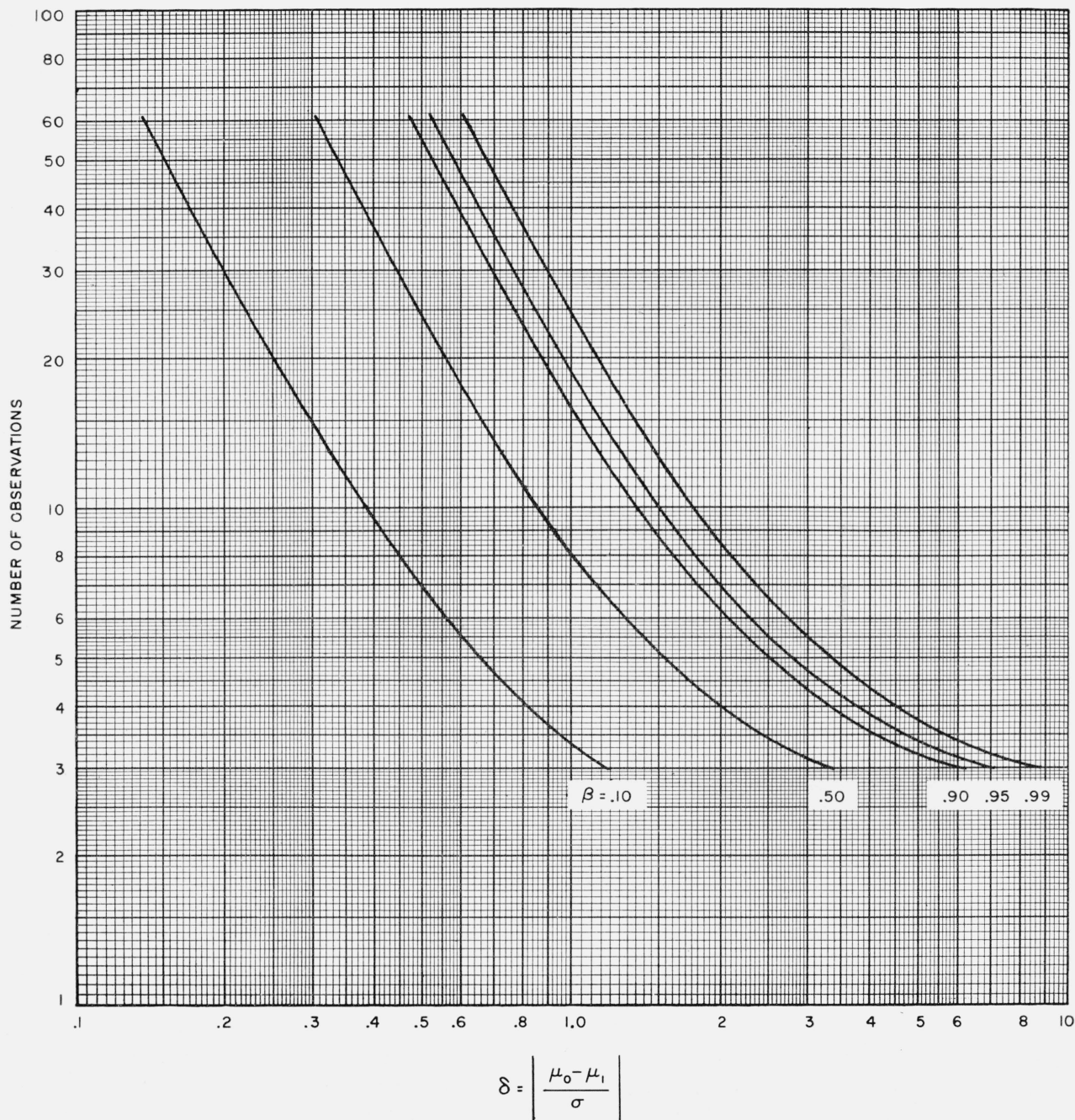


FIGURE 2. Curves of constant power (β) for t -test of mean.

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} .05 & \text{FOR TWO-SIDED TEST} \\ .025 & \text{FOR ONE-SIDED TEST} \end{cases}$$

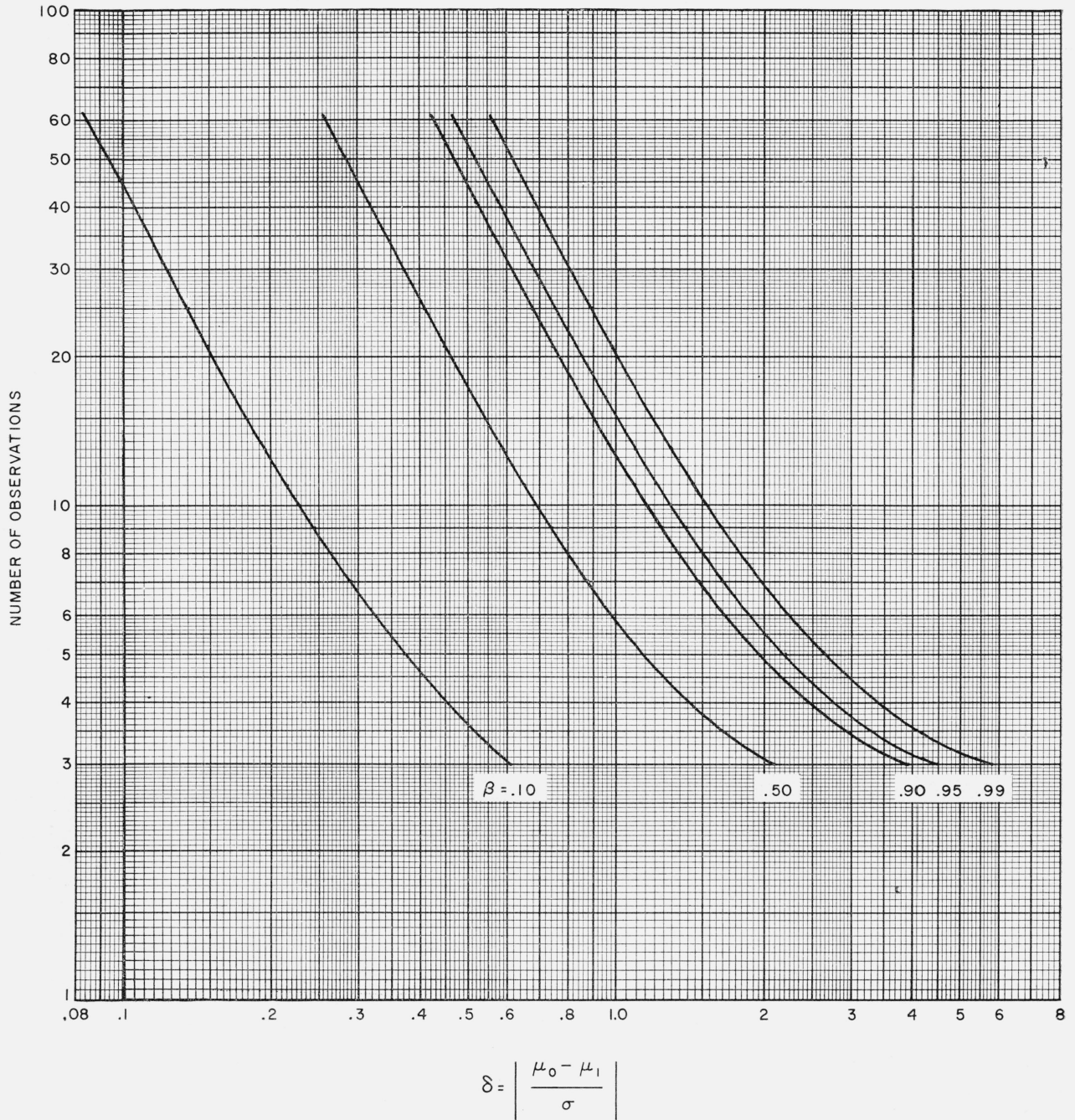


FIGURE 3. Curves of constant power (β) for t-test of mean.

Locating the horizontal line at $n=10$ on figure 3, we can read off the five values of the standardized difference $\delta = \frac{|\mu - \mu_0|}{\sigma}$ which can be detected with prob-

ability $\beta=0.10, 0.50, 0.90, 0.95$, and 0.99 . These five points, which are tabulated below, together with the level of significance $\alpha=0.05$ are sufficient to graph the power curve of that particular test. A sketch of this graph is given in figure 11.

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} .10 & \text{FOR TWO-SIDED TEST} \\ .05 & \text{FOR ONE-SIDED TEST} \end{cases}$$

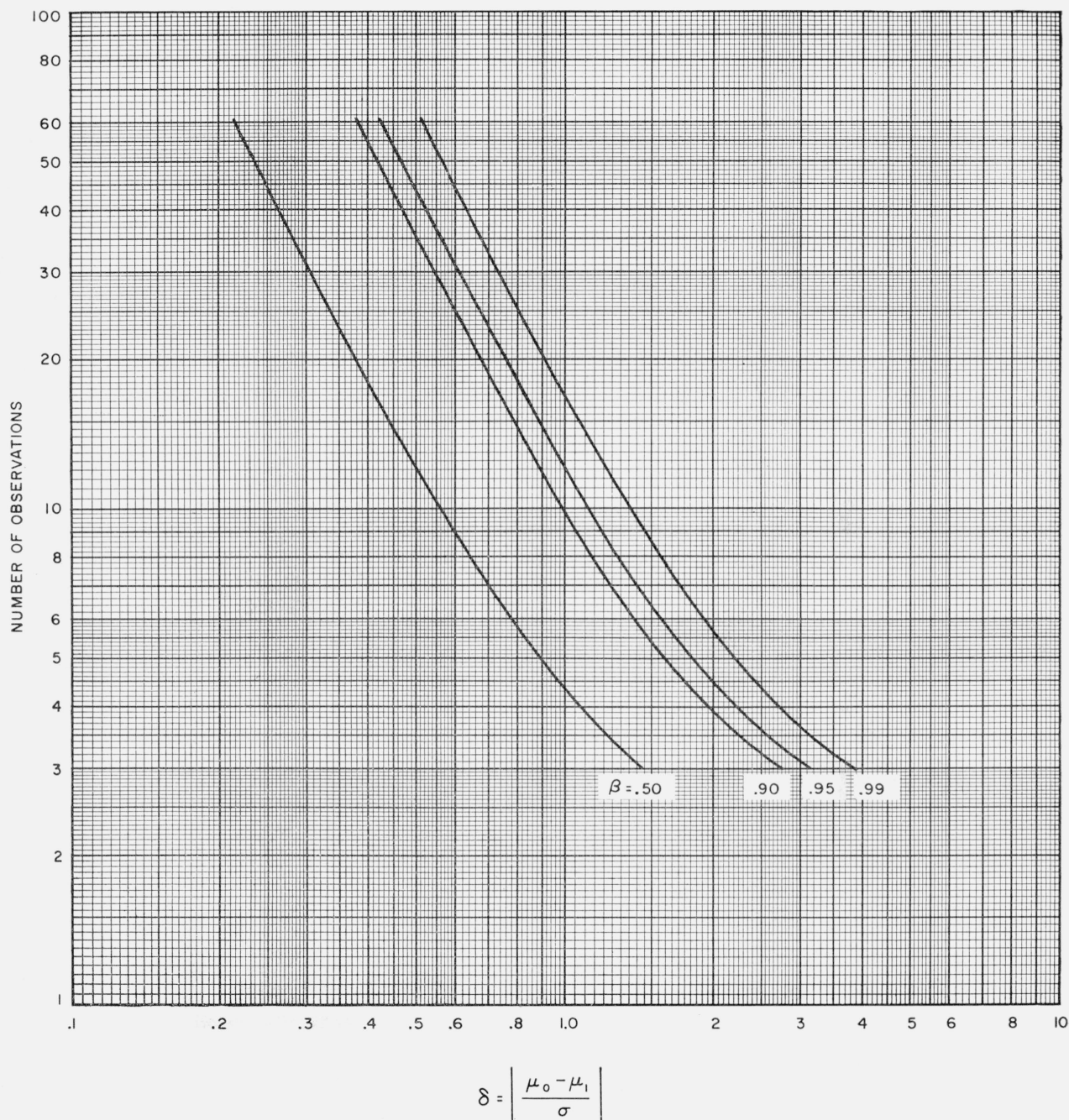


FIGURE 4. Curves of constant power (β) for t -test of mean.

Power (β)	$\left \frac{\mu - \mu_0}{\sigma} \right $
0.10	0.23
.50	.69
.90	1.15
.95	1.30
.99	1.52

The entire power curve enables one to find the corresponding power β for any standardized difference δ . For example, the probability of detecting a difference of one standard deviation, $\delta=1.0$, would be found from the graph to be 0.76.

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} .20 & \text{FOR TWO-SIDED TEST} \\ .10 & \text{FOR ONE-SIDED TEST} \end{cases}$$

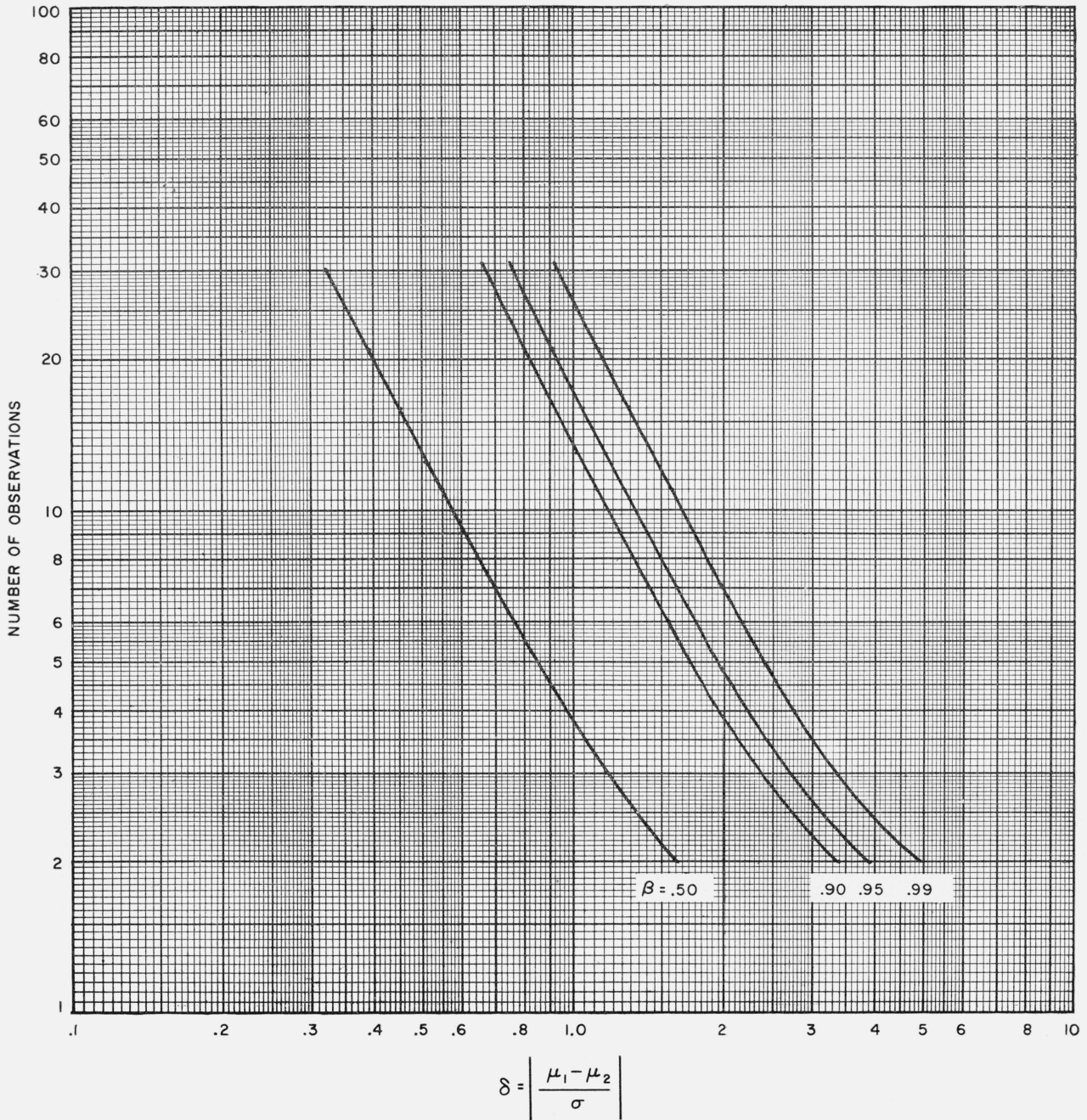


FIGURE 5. Curves of constant power (β) for t -test of mean.

Example 2. How many observations are necessary to detect a difference of at least 2σ between the means of two normal populations with a probability of $\beta=0.95$ using a two-sided t -test at level of significance $\alpha=0.10$?

Using figure 9 we see that the $\delta=2$ line intersects the $\beta=0.95$ curve at approximately 6.2. Therefore, seven observations from each population would be necessary to detect a difference of 2σ between the population means.

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} .01 & \text{FOR TWO-SIDED TEST} \\ .005 & \text{FOR ONE-SIDED TEST} \end{cases}$$

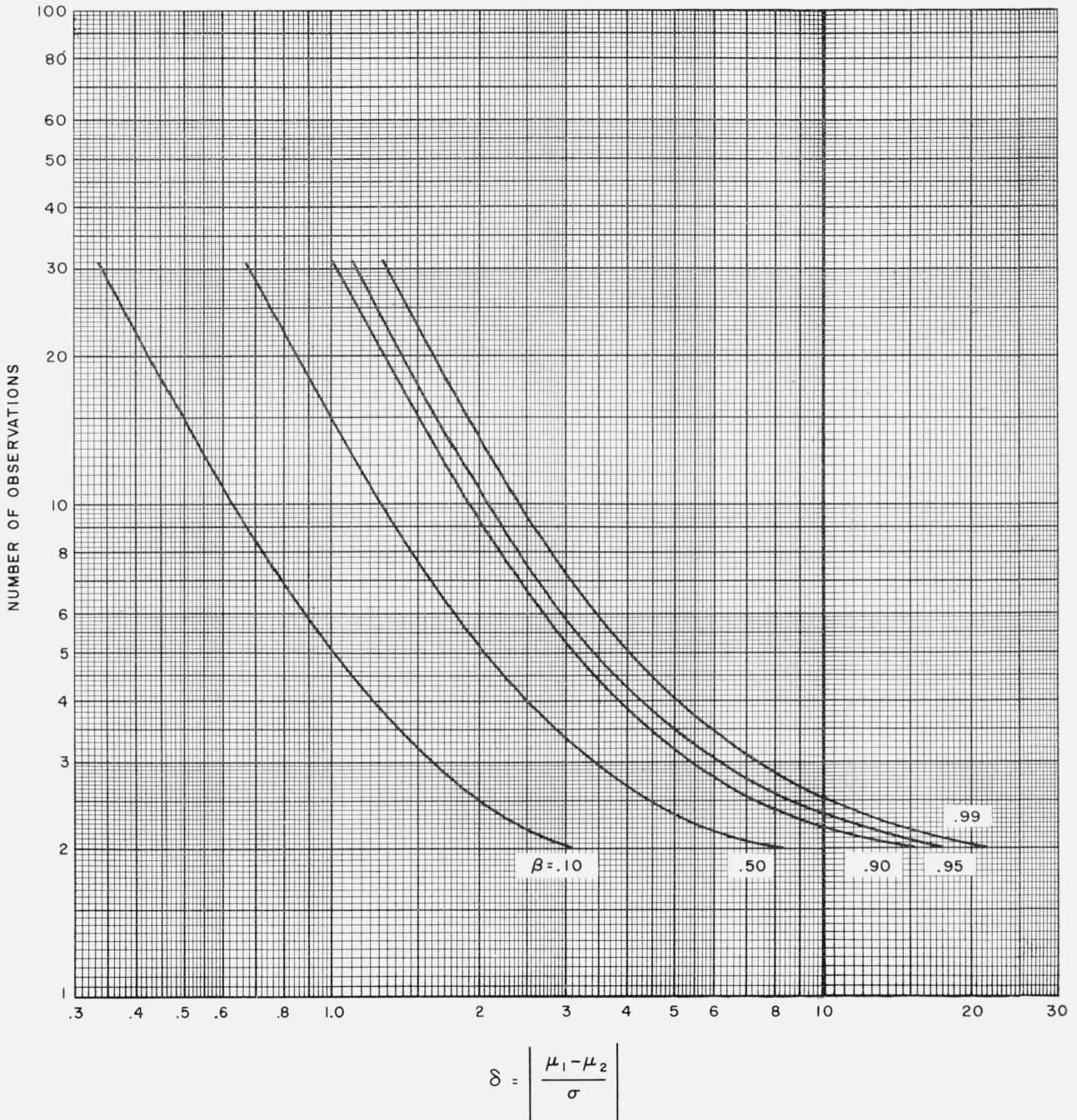


FIGURE 6. Curves of constant power (β) for t-test of difference between means.

Example 3. It is planned to carry out a one-sided t-test for comparing two population means at level of significance $\alpha=0.01$. The problem is to find the power curve when $n=5$ observations are taken from each population.

From figure 7 we see that the values of the standardized difference δ corresponding to $\beta=0.10, 0.50, 0.90, 0.95, 0.99$ for $n=5$ are: (see fig. 12)

Power (β)	$\delta = \left \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_2}{\sigma} \right $
0.10	0.78
.50	1.77
.90	2.78
.95	3.08
.99	3.60

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} .02 & \text{FOR TWO-SIDED TEST} \\ .01 & \text{FOR ONE-SIDED TEST} \end{cases}$$

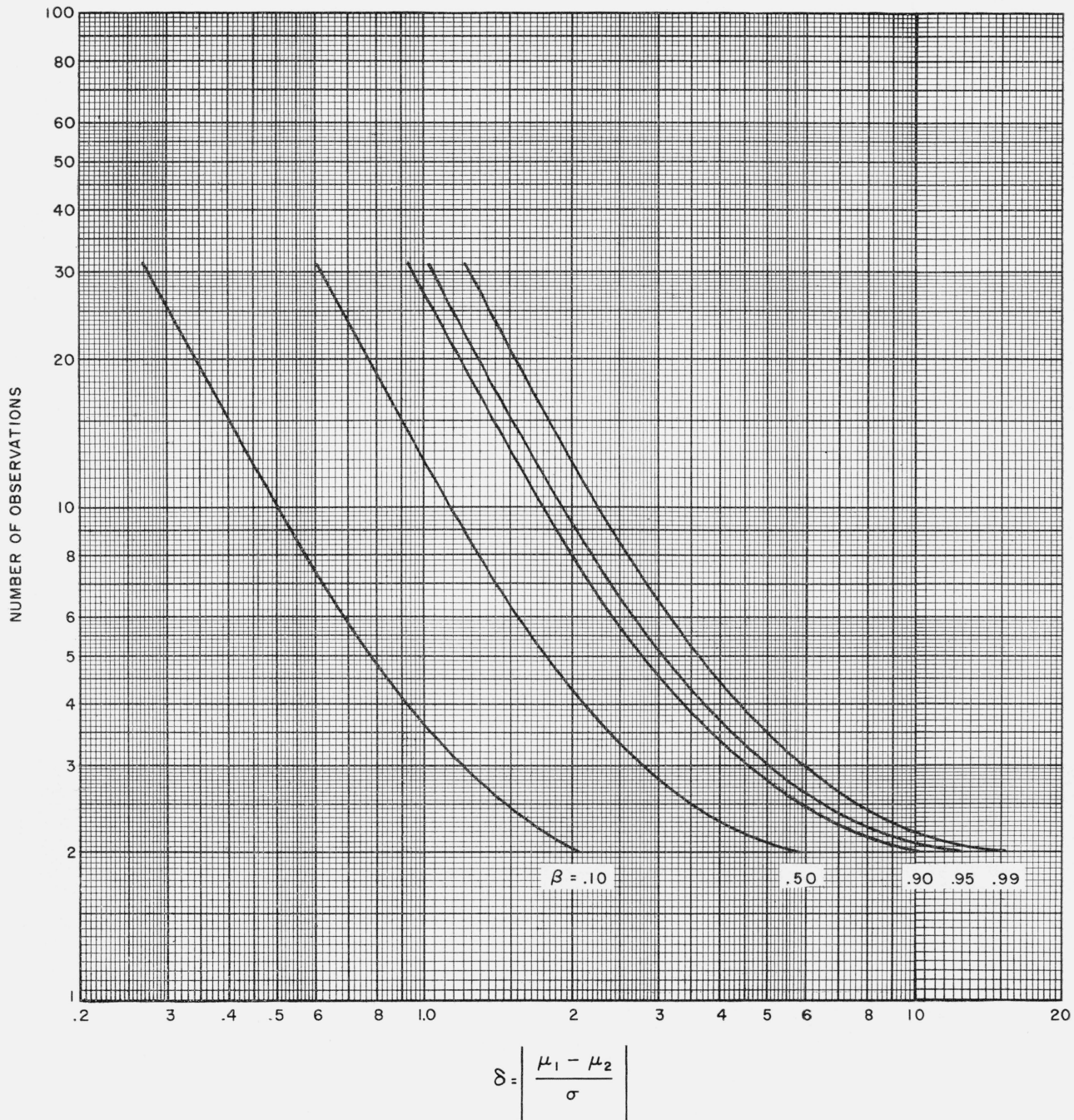


FIGURE 7. Curves of constant power (β) for t-test of difference between means.

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} .05 & \text{FOR TWO-SIDED TEST} \\ .025 & \text{FOR ONE-SIDED TEST} \end{cases}$$

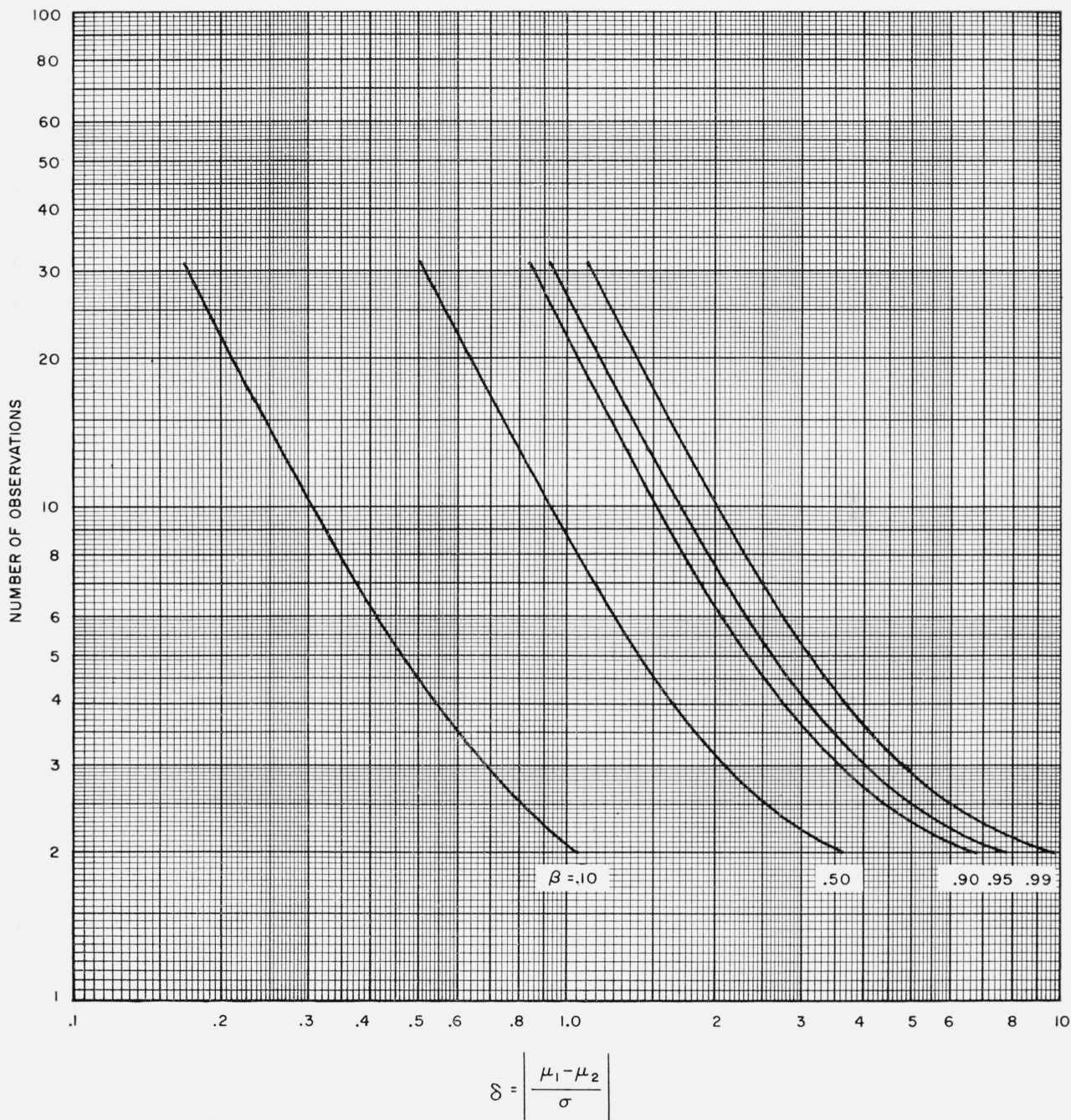
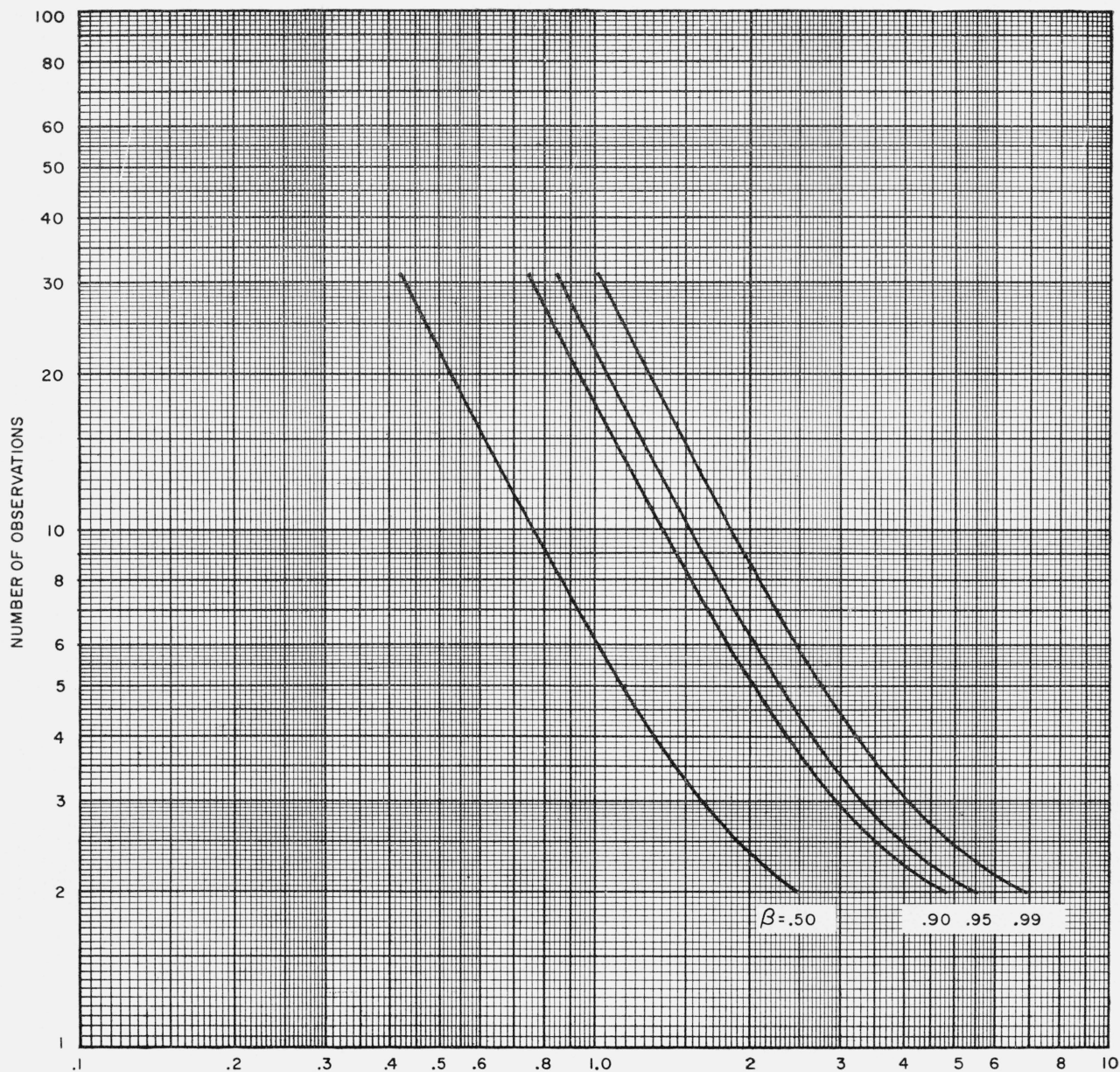


FIGURE 8. Curves of constant power (β) for t-test of difference between means.

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} .10 & \text{FOR TWO-SIDED TEST} \\ .05 & \text{FOR ONE-SIDED TEST} \end{cases}$$



$$\delta = \left| \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_2}{\sigma} \right|$$

FIGURE 9. Curves of constant power (β) for t-test of difference between means.

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} .20 & \text{FOR TWO-SIDED TEST} \\ .10 & \text{FOR ONE-SIDED TEST} \end{cases}$$

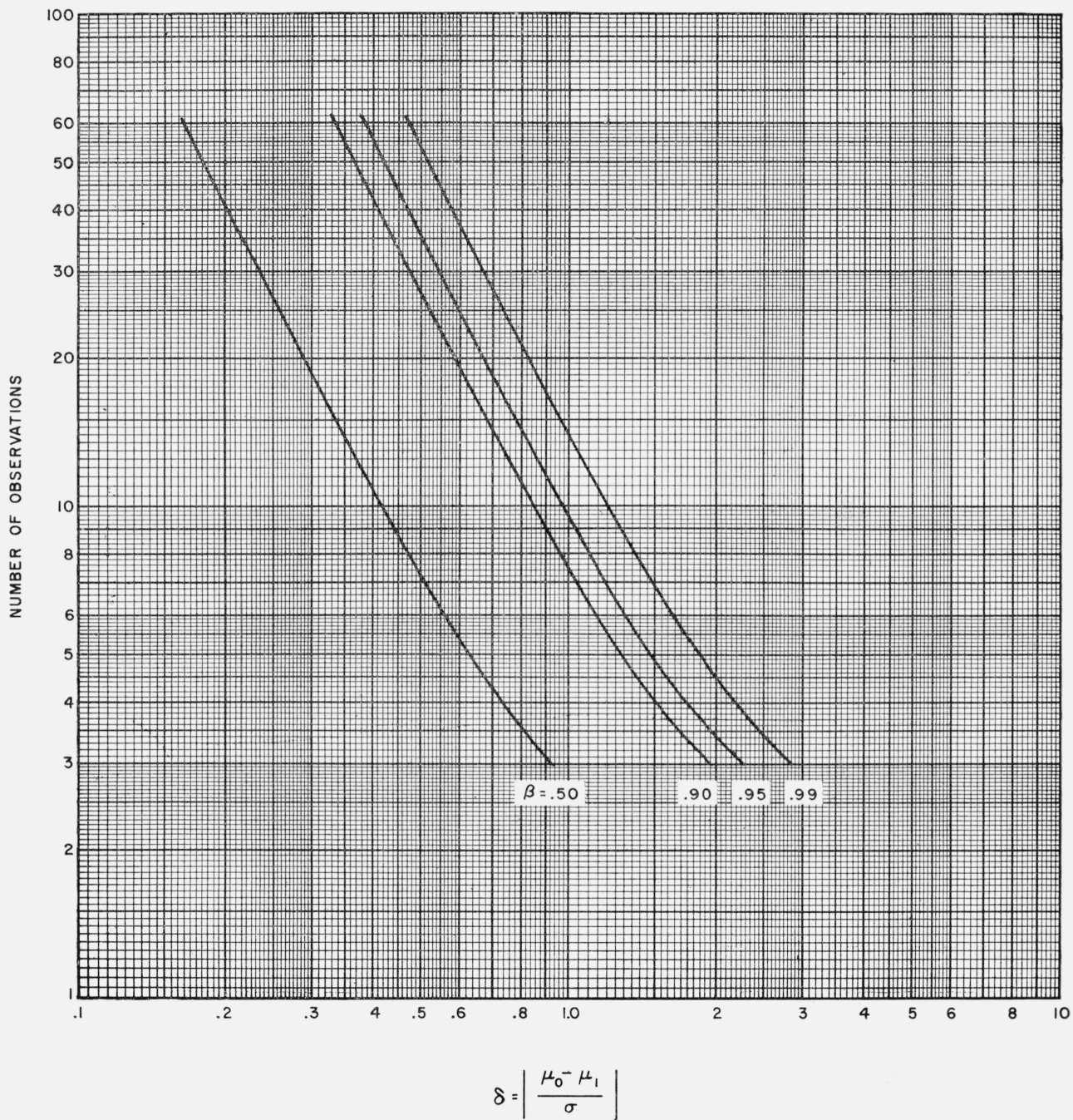


FIGURE 10. Curves of constant power (β) for t-test of difference between means.

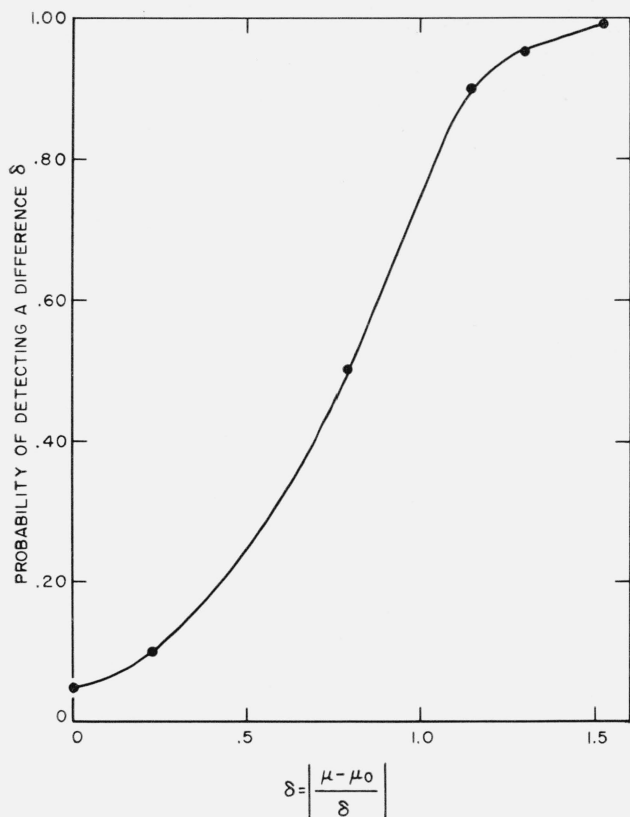


FIGURE 11. Power curve for a two-sided t -test of the population mean where $n=10$ and $\alpha=0.05$.

The author thanks Marvin Zelen for innumerable contributions to this paper.

(Paper 66B2-74)

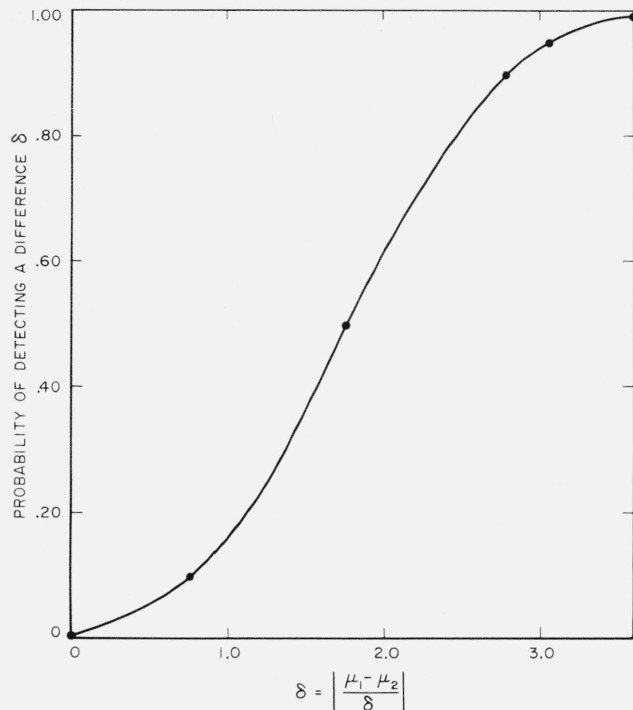


FIGURE 12. Power curve for a one-sided t -test for comparing the means of two populations where $n=5$ and $\alpha=0.01$.

6. References

- [1] Davies, Owen L., The Design and Analysis of Industrial Experiments, Hafner Publ. Co., New York, 1954.
- [2] Johnson, N. L. and Welch, B. L., Applications of the non-central t -distribution, *Biometrika* **31**, 362-389 (1940).
- [3] Neyman, J., Statistical problems in agricultural experimentation, Supplement to the *J. Roy. Statistical Soc.* **2**, 107-154 (1935).
- [4] Neyman, J. and Tokarska, B., Errors of the second kind in testing "Student's" hypothesis, *JASA* **31**, 318-326 (1936).
- [5] Resnikoff, G. J., Tables to facilitate the computation of percentage points of the non-central t -distribution, Tech. Rept. No. 55, Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, Calif., 1961.
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- [7] Tables of the non-central F distribution, to be published by the National Bureau of Standards as part of its Applied Mathematics Series.

Publications of the National Bureau of Standards

Selected Abstracts

Systems of electrical units, F. B. Silsbee, *J. Research NBS 66C (Engr. and Instr.) No. 2 (Apr.-June 1962) 75 cents.*

The various systems of measurement, with their respective sets of units, used in the literature on electricity and magnetism are described in detail. Their historical development is summarized. The manner in which each is derived from either of the two alternative points of view of the experimentalist and the theoretician is compared and contrasted. The desirability of recognizing both points of view in international standardization, particularly when discussing rationalization, is pointed out. The present status of the absolute measurements on which all electrical units are based is reported, and tables are included for the conversion of equations and numerical values from one system to another.

Some problems connected with Rayleigh distributions, M. M. Siddiqui, *J. Research NBS 66D (Radio Prop.) No. 2 (Mar.-Apr. 1962) 70 cents.*

This is an expository paper presenting the following: (1) the origin, and (2) the properties of the Rayleigh distribution; (3) the most efficient estimators of its parameters; (4) a test of the hypothesis that a set of observations is from a Rayleigh distribution; (5) the distribution of the ratio of two independent Rayleigh variates; and (6) the Rayleigh process derived from a normal process.

Impedance of a monopole antenna with a radial-wire ground system on an imperfectly conducting half space, Part I, S. W. Maley and R. J. King, *J. Research NBS 66D (Radio Prop.) No. 2 (Mar.-Apr. 1962) 70 cents.*

The effectiveness of a radial wire ground system as an approximation to a radial conducting disk ground system for a vertical monopole antenna over an imperfectly conducting ground is investigated experimentally by means of impedance measurements. The results were compared with theoretical work by J. R. Wait. The comparison shows that Wait's formula for the effective surface impedance of a radial wire ground system gives results which agree well with the measurements.

Theory of the infinite cylindrical antenna including the feed-point singularity in antenna current, R. H. Duncan, *J. Research NBS 66D (Radio Prop.) No. 2 (Apr.-Mar. 1962) 70 cents.*

The usual idealized model for a cylindrical antenna consists of an extremely thin walled tube of infinite conductivity with an infinitesimally narrow circumferential gap. Physically, one expects the antenna current at the feedpoint of such a model to be infinite. However, the singularity in feedpoint current is not detected by either iterative or Fourier series solutions of the integral equation for antenna current. These solutions are continuous on zh , where h is the half-length of the antenna. They are also in good agreement with each other and with experimental data. From a formal point of view this amounts to saying that the conventional solutions of the integral equation are solutions on most, but not all, of the range zh . Inside a small region, zz_s , the correct solution to the integral equation is peculiar to the idealized generator. Low order iterative and Fourier series solutions ignore these peculiarities and produce a smooth current distribution which can be used in predicting the behavior of practical structures. This paper is concerned with a detailed study of the theoretical current near the feedpoint of the idealized model and the development of a definition of z_s .

The electric field at the ground plane near a disk-loaded monopole, J. Hansen and R. Larsen, *J. Research NBS 66D (Radio Prop.) No. 2 (Mar.-Apr. 1962) 70 cents.*

In calculating ground losses for antennas with a ground wire system it is necessary to know the vertical electric field strength and the tangential magnetic field strength at the surface of the ground.

In this paper the vertical electric field strength at the ground plane near the base of an electrically short vertical antenna with a top loading in the shape of a circular disk is calculated. Numerical computations are carried out to some extent.

Propagation of plane electromagnetic waves past a shoreline, J. Bazer and S. N. Karp, *J. Research NBS 66D (Radio Prop.) No. 3 (May-June 1962) 70 cents.*

The problems of the diffraction of homogeneous plane waves and ground waves by a linear shoreline in a planar land-sea surface are discussed. The direction of propagation of these incident waves is assumed perpendicular, and that of their magnetic vectors parallel, to the shoreline. At the air-land interface, the customary impedance boundary condition is imposed while the sea is treated as a perfect conductor; atmospheric and ionospheric effects are ignored. Exact integral representations of the solutions are presented. In the case of homogeneous plane-wave excitation originating over the sea, the integral representations are employed to obtain expressions for the geometrical optics field and for the far-field form of the remaining scattered field, transition regions included. The possibility of coastal refraction is discussed.

Currents induced on the surface of a conducting circular cylinder by a slot, G. Hasserjian and A. Ishimaru, *J. Research NBS 66D (Radio Prop.) No. 3 (May-June 1962) 70 cents.*

This paper is a partial study of currents induced on circular, conducting cylinders by narrow radiating slots. First, a brief and general formulation of the radiation fields of slots on cylinders is made. Then, the problem of an infinite axial slot is examined thoroughly for all cylinder sizes. An expansion for the fields, very close to the slot, on large radius cylinders, is also obtained. Sample computations are made, for various ranges of cylinder radius, and the order of the errors is discussed.

The problem of a circumferential slot, of constant excitation, is also considered. An asymptotic expansion obtained for this case yields the surface current distribution for values of axial distances that are smaller than the square of the circumference of the cylinder.

Since one of the objectives of this study is to determine mutual coupling between two slots on a cylinder, the last section presents a formulation of the equivalent network in terms of the surface and feed line currents.

Periodicity modulo m and diversibility properties of the partition function, M. Newman, *Trans. Am. Math. Soc.* **97**, No. 2, 225-236 (Nov. 1960).

It is proved that modulo 2, 5, 13 the unrestricted partition function $p(n)$ fills all residue classes infinitely often, and similar theorems for related functions are proved.

Applications of statistics in Post Office automation, B. M. Levin and N. C. Severo, *Am. Statistician* **15**, No. 4, 14-18 (Oct. 1961).

The National Bureau of Standards is involved in designing and developing equipments and systems for the improved sorting of mail. As part of this project numerous statistical studies—mostly of a sampling type—have been conducted.

These studies were designed to obtain research and development information which is not collected by the Post Office as part of its routine data collecting activities. The data from these studies have proved useful as a basis for making administrative decisions, for developing efficient mechanized schemes of sorting mail, and for costing these schemes. This paper presents a thumbnail sketch of the Post Office mechanization problem, a description of the statistical problems encountered with some results of corresponding studies, and some of the uses to which the data have been put.

What is the best value? W. J. Youden, *J. Wash. Acad. Sci.* **51**, No. 6, 95-97 (Oct. 1961).

Investigators measuring physical constants frequently try various combinations of apparatus components and vary the operating conditions. Ideally none of these changes should affect the outcome. In fact very small effects are usually associated with many such alterations in the measurement procedure. A simple average of the various measurements may give undue weight to one or another of the substitutions when no basis exists for favoring one over the other. This note indicates how a planned program of changes avoids unequal weighing and increases the efficiency of detecting small effects.

Lower bounds for eigenvalues of Schrödinger's equation, N. W. Bazley and D. W. Fox, *Phys. Rev.* **124**, No. 2, 483-492 (Oct. 1961).

This paper gives new results that are useful in estimation of eigenvalues of Schrödinger's equation. Numerical applications are made for the helium atom, an anharmonic oscillator, and a radial Schrödinger equation.

Non-additivity in two-way analysis of variance, J. Mandel, *J. Am. Stat. Assoc.* **56**, 878-888 (Dec. 1961).

In two-way classification analysis of variance situations there often exists a systematic type of row column interaction. A model is proposed in which the interaction is of the type $Q_{ij}\gamma_j$ where Q_i is a parameter of the i th row, not necessarily associated with the main effect for rows, and γ_j is the main effect for column j . The analysis of data according to this model is given, including estimation and tests of significance. The model is more general than that involved in Tukey's "one degree of freedom for non-additivity." The relationship between the two methods is discussed. The application of the method to different types of problems is also discussed.

Advances in orthonormalizing computation, P. J. David and P. Rabinowitz, *Advances in Computers* **11**, 55-133 (1961).

This paper contains: (1) a survey of least square approximation techniques in numerical analysis, (2) some recent numerical results on the solution of boundary value problems via the method of orthogonalized particular solutions.

Memory effects in irreversible thermodynamics, R. Zwanzig, *Phys. Rev.* **124**, No. 4, 983-992 (Nov. 15, 1961).

A new generalization of Onsager's theory of irreversible processes is presented. The main purpose is to allow for memory effects or causal time behavior, so that the response to a thermodynamic force comes later than the application of the force. This is accomplished by a statistical mechanical derivation of an exact non-Markoffian kinetic equation for the probability distribution in the space of macroscopic state variables. The memory effect in the resulting transport equations is represented by a time convolution of the thermodynamic forces with memory functions. The latter are time-correlation functions in the rates of change of the phase functions corresponding to macroscopic quantities. The resulting transport equations are not restricted to small deviations from thermal equilibrium. Onsager's theory is shown to be the low-frequency limit of our causal theory.

Formulae for an accurate intermediary orbit of an artificial satellite, J. P. Vinti, *Astronomical J.* **66**, No. 9, 514-516 (Nov. 1961).

Formulae are given for computing the drag-free orbit of an artificial satellite of an oblate planet moving in the field of a certain gravitational potential. This potential, expressed

in oblate spheroidal coordinates and leading to separability of the Hamilton-Jacobi equation, fits the zeroth and second zonal harmonics exactly and, in the case of the earth, yields more than half of the fourth zonal harmonic. The solution gives periodic terms through the second order in the oblateness parameter and secular terms exactly, for the given potential. It thus furnishes an intermediary orbit which should always remain very accurate.

A comment on Ryser's "normal and integral implies incidence" theorem, K. Goldberg, *Am. Math. Monthly* **68**, No. 8, 770-771 (Oct. 1961).

One of H. J. Ryser's well-known results on matrices satisfying the incidence equation states that if such a matrix is normal and integral it is a 0,1 matrix. The purpose of this note is to show that "integral" can be replaced by "each of its non-zero elements is at least 1 in absolute value," and that the essence of the condition is thus size and not algebraic type.

Other NBS Publications

Journal of Research 66A (Phys. and Chem.) No. 2 (Mar.-Apr. 1962) 70 cents

Correction factors for the calibration of encapsulated radium sources. R. M. Lee and T. P. Loftus.

Description and analysis of the second spectrum of tantalum, Ta II. C. C. Kiess.

Vibration-rotation bands of carbonyl sulfide. A. G. Maki, E. K. Plyler, and E. D. Tidwell.

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Conductometric determination of sulfhydryl groups in swollen polycaprolactam fibers having disulfide and alkylene sulfide crosslinks. S. D. Bruck and S. M. Bailey.

Chromatographic analysis of petroleum fractions used in oil-extended rubber. D. J. Termini and A. R. Glasgow.

Cross-sectional correction for computing Young's modulus from longitudinal resonance vibrations of square and cylindrical rods. W. E. Tefft and S. Spinner.

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Systems of electrical units. F. B. Silsbee. (See above abstract.)

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Some problems connected with Rayleigh distributions. M. M. Siddiqui. (See above abstract.)

Impedance of a monopole antenna with a radial-wire ground system on an imperfectly conducting half space, part I. S. W. Mailey and R. J. King. (See above abstract.)

Theory of the infinite cylindrical antenna including the feed-point singularity in antenna current. R. H. Duncan. (See above abstract.)

- The *E*-field and *H*-field losses around antennas with a radial ground wire system. T. Larsen.
- The electric field at the ground plane near a disk-loaded monopole. J. Hansen and T. Larsen. (See above abstract.)
- Journal of Research 66D (Radio Prop.) No. 3 (May-June 1962) 70 cents.**
- A theory of radar reflections from a rough moon. D. F. Winter.
- Lunar theory reasserted. K. M. Siegel and T. B. A. Senior.
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- Schumann resonances of the earth-ionosphere cavity—extremely low frequency reception at Kingston, R. I. C. Polk and F. Fitchen.
- Propagation of plane electromagnetic waves past a shoreline. J. Bazer and S. N. Karp. (See above abstract)
- Currents induced on the surface of a conducting circular cylinder by a slot. G. Hasserjian and A. Ishimaru. (See above abstract)
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- An experimental study of phase variations in line-of-sight microwave transmissions. K. A. Norton, J. W. Herbstreit, H. B. Janes, K. O. Hornberg, C. F. Peterson, A. F. Barghausen, W. E. Johnson, P. I. Wells, M. C. Thompson, Jr., M. J. Vetter, and A. W. Kirkpatrick, NBS Mono. 33 (Nov. 1, 1961) 55 cents.
- Tables of chemical kinetics. Homogeneous reactions (Supplementary tables), NBS Mono. 34 (Sept. 15, 1961) \$2.75.
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- Effect of mortar properties on strength of masonry, C. C. Fishburn, NBS Mono. 36 (Nov. 20, 1961) 30 cents.
- Tabulation of data on microwave tubes, C. P. Marsden, W. J. Keery, and J. K. Moffitt, NBS Handb. 70, (Nov. 1, 1961) \$1.00.
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